

135TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY FACT SHEETS

S.B. 187: SUPPORT

Prohibit firearm possession with a domestic violence conviction

Sponsors: Sen. Hearcel F. Craig (D-Columbus) and Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron)

Committee Status



Current Law

Federal law bars most people convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence offenses from possessing firearms. There is no parallel Ohio law nor an Ohio law that ensures federal law is enforced. Due to the complicated nature of the interaction between federal and state firearm prohibitions in Ohio and the lack of firearm surrender protocols, **most misdemeanor domestic violence offenders in Ohio maintain possession of their firearms.**



If passed, this legislation would:

- ✓ Prohibit a person who is charged with or has been convicted of a first-degree misdemeanor domestic violence from possessing a firearm or dangerous weapon.
- ✓ Make people who violate this law eligible to be charged with having weapons under disability, which is a felony of the third degree.

Why is S.B 187 Important?

- In 75% of DV homicides in SFY23, firearms were the weapons used to kill. In SFY22, 91% of DV homicide victims were killed with a gun.
- Ohio would join 32 other states that prohibit misdemeanor domestic violence offenders from possessing guns.
- State laws that prohibit firearm possession by those convicted of any violent misdemeanor were associated with a 23% reduction in firearm intimate partner homicide. S.B. 187 has the potential to save lives.

Firearm Surrender Resources



[Firearms Checklist for Prosecutors](#)



[Firearms Checklist for Law Enforcement](#)



[Firearms Checklist for Advocates](#)

135TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY JANUARY 2023-DECEMBER 2024

ODVN supports legislation and policy initiatives that foster change in our economic, social, and political systems and are consistent with our mission to advance the principles that all people have the right to an oppression and violence-free life. ODVN does not support legislation or policy initiatives that jeopardize or complicate the path to safety for domestic violence victims or further marginalize survivors of any group.



Legislative Priorities



Increasing Funding for Domestic Violence Shelters and Community Programs

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) requested and received a \$20 million total allocation for the biennium to the Domestic Violence line item in the FY 2024-2025 budget to sustain our programs and allow them to serve more survivors seeking help. Thank you, Attorney General Yost, Governor DeWine, and the General Assembly for supporting this lifesaving work.



Reducing Domestic Violence Fatalities

ODVN supports efforts to incorporate domestic violence risk assessment tools, such as evidence-based lethality assessment screenings, into local communities' responses to domestic violence. The proposed legislation should include funding for training for law enforcement officers.



Enhancing Child Safety

ODVN supports efforts to create a safer, more child-centered process for children and their families in family court, especially for marginalized survivors who already experience systemic barriers to obtaining safety.

Policy and Systems Advocacy

Scan the QR code to visit ODVN's policy website. From there you can view the electronic version of fact sheets such as this one, sign up for legislative updates, and see all of ODVN's tracked bills through a comprehensive legislative tracker.

